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Contact: Kenneth D. Shoji
Public Relations Manager,
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
909.864.8933 x 3154
kshoji@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

Contact: Craig Petinak
Director, Marketing & PR,
San Bernardino Valley College
909.384.8978
cpetinak@valleycollege.edu

**SAN MANUEL BAND OF SERRANO MISSION INDIANS RECEIVES
NATIONAL AWARD FOR SUPPORT OF LOCAL COLLEGES**

*Crafton Hills College Foundation and San Bernardino Valley College Foundation to Join Tribe in
Nation's Capital for Awards Ceremony*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – November 10, 2009 – The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians will receive the 2009 Council for Resource Development (CRD) Benefactor Award at the national awards ceremony on Friday, November 13, 2009, in Washington, D.C. The Tribe will be recognized for their support of the San Bernardino Valley College and Crafton Hills College Foundations.

The Region IX Selection Committee, comprised of CRD members from Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, and Trust Territories considered the important contributions and leadership demonstrated by the more than 58 nominees and selected the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians as the national award recipient. As it has for the past 16 years, CRD will also recognize benefactors from the other nine regions throughout the United States.

Representatives from San Manuel, San Bernardino Valley College and Crafton Hills College will attend the Benefactor Awards Banquet on Friday, November 13, in Washington D.C. where Tribal Chairman James Ramos will accept the award on behalf of San Manuel.

Ramos also sits as the elected President of the San Bernardino Community College District Board of Trustees.

“Across this nation, community colleges are serving a critical function by making needed training accessible to those who serve and protect the community,” said San Manuel Chairman James Ramos. “As a Tribal Government operating in an area prone to natural disaster, we place a high priority on preparing our emergency service personnel and have found a partnership with the San Bernardino Community College District to be mutually beneficial.”

Through partnerships with community and charitable organizations, San Manuel honors the ancestral Serrano value of sharing with others. Since 2001, San Manuel has contributed some \$20 million to charities and community groups. The Tribe has given to a variety of programs that support community goals—including education.

In January 2009, San Manuel awarded 7.3 million dollars to many of these organizations at the “Forging Hope” luncheon in San Bernardino, Calif. —including \$150,000 to each of the non-profit foundations at Crafton Hills College and San Bernardino Valley College.

At Crafton Hills College, the donation has funded the Redlands Emergency Services Academy (RESA) Program—a partnership comprised of Crafton Hills Public Safety Programs, University of Redlands, local fire and police departments and several high schools. It provides high school students with a rigorous, hands-on introduction to public safety careers by running a simulated, but very real, public safety academy.

At San Bernardino Valley College, the donation is providing a free first year of education for local high school graduates who otherwise would not have been able to attend college. Entitled the “Valley-Bound Commitment”, the donation has allowed the program to expand to include 87 qualified high school graduates from 12 local high schools who are now receiving all expenses paid for their first year at San Bernardino Valley College.

The Council for Resource Development (CRD) Benefactor Award recognizes individuals, foundations, or businesses/corporations for outstanding contributions to community colleges. The CRD Benefactor Award embodies the ideals of philanthropy, leadership, and volunteerism in the service of community, technical, and junior colleges. One recipient from each of CRD's ten regions in the United States will receive the award on behalf of that region at the gala CRD Benefactor Awards Banquet in conjunction with the CRD Annual Conference, November 11 - 13, 2009 in Washington, D.C. Region 9 includes all of Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam and Trust Territories. Previous CRD Region 9 Benefactor Award Winners include: Southern California Edison, Motorola, Toyota and Ford Motor Company.

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About the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of

governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

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